

For Immediate Release
July 20, 2009

“Does this show make me look fat?”

GUT is a blatantly autobiographical look at patient zero in the obesity epidemic. David turns his lifelong struggle with weight into an engaging hour of, ahem, light comedy. **GUT** comes to the Roxy Theatre for a media preview on **Tuesday, August 4th** and premieres at the 2009 Edmonton Fringe Festival.

GUT is written by David Cheoros, directed by Trevor Schmidt, and stars Vincent Forcier and David Cheoros.

A bizarre hybrid of theatre, stand-up comedy and reality television, **GUT** captures the author's lifelong struggle with weight. Our society is bombarded with statistics from all side about the health effects of being overweight, and everyone seems to be selling the secret to being (or seeming) thinner. David combines personal anecdotes with extensive research in guiding the audience through the "obesity epidemic."

But the show goes further: David takes the stage, and quite literally puts his ass on the line. Each performance, the audience is presented with a choice: to vote to allow David to maintain the lifestyle of his choice, or to force him into a regimen of diet and exercise. Votes will be tabulated, and at the end of the fringe run of **GUT**, David will stick with the majority decision.

It's possible to see **GUT** as an example of social judgments creating new norms, but there's more at play. David is genuinely ambivalent about his need to change his life, and is endeavouring to present both sides to a kind of theatrical jury, in an effort to gain a broader perspective.

MAA & PAA is dedicated to creating engaging stories of Alberta's past, and exploring usual theatre techniques for Alberta's future. The company is an ongoing partnership between archivist and historian Karen Simonson, and theatre artist David Cheoros, with the support of the Edmonton Arts Council and the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Past projects include *Letters from Battle River*, *An Oak Tree*, and *Respecting the Action for Seduction*.

GUT has been developed with the assistance of the One Yellow Rabbit Summer Lab. **GUT** is one of nine productions hosted by MAA & PAA Theatre at the Strathcona Public Library.

GUT previews at the Roxy Theatre (10708 – 124 Street) at 8:00pm on Tuesday, August 4th (all tickets \$10, available at 780.453.2440). During the Edmonton Fringe, the production runs at the Strathcona Branch, Edmonton Public Library (8331 – 104 Street).

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For photos and more information
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MAA & PAA Company Bios

David Cheoros (Playwright/Performer)

As a director and playwright, David's recent credits include *True Grid*, *An Oak Tree*, the Sterling-nominated *Spring Alibi* and this year's *The Unmarried Wife*. He studied theatre at the Universities of Waterloo and Victoria. David has been the festival director at the Edmonton Fringe for a few years, and also taken shows to festivals across Canada, and in Washington, Indianapolis and Adelaide. He's also been Executive Director of the Film and Video Arts Society, Co-Producer (with Pamela Anthony) of the Comedy Arts Festival, and General Manager of Theatre Network. David is the Executive Director of the **Edmonton Literary Festival**.

Vincent Forcier (Performer)

Vincent is an Edmonton based actor, dancer and director. Selected credits include: *Eleanor*, *Twisted Thing*, *The Zoo Story* (Surreal SoReal Theatre); *1984* (Teens @ the Turn); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (UofA), *Without You* (World Premiere), *Roberto Zucco* (Studio Theatre), and the Sterling nominated *The Creation of the World...* (The System Theatre). Selected directing credits include: *Redbird*, *Duet For a Schizophrenic*, *Big Shot* (Surreal SoReal Theatre), and the Sterling nominated *Nobody's Story* (Leahtard Theatre). Vincent is a graduate of the BFA-Acting program at the University of Alberta and Co-Artistic Director of Surreal SoReal Theatre.

Danny Kinsman (Graphic Designer)

Daniel is a graduate of the MacEwan Visual Communication & Design program, where he specialized in Design & Digital Media. His design work can be seen in Sleeman and Molson promotional materials, University of Alberta websites and numerous Fringe productions nationally including this year's production of *The Author's Voice*.

Trevor Schmidt (Director)

Trevor is an award-winning actor, playwright and director and is the current artistic director of Northern Light Theatre. Recent performance credits include the one-man Fringe hit *Coffee Dad*, *Chicken Mom and the Fabulous Buddha Boi* (Sterling award), Bette Davis in the wildly popular tour of *BitchSlap!*, and Brandt in *The Busy World is Hushed* (Sterling nomination). Recent directing credits include *Love, Some Girl(s)*, and the Fringe hit *The World's Wife* (Sterling award for direction).

David van Belle (Dramaturge)

David van Belle is a Calgary-based playwright, director, and performer with a passion for devised creation. He's currently co-Artistic Director of Ghost River Theatre and playwright-in-residence at Alberta Theatre Projects; he shares both titles with his pal Eric Rose. David spent seven years as part of the ensemble of One Yellow Rabbit Performance Theatre before leaving to go freelance in 2007. Recent creations include *Buzz Job! The True Story of Cal Cavendish*, created with Kris Demeanor and the Calgary Folk Music Festival; *The Invisible Project*, a collaborative creation made in residence at Calgary's largest homeless shelter and performed as part of the 2009 High Performance Rodeo; and *The Highest Step in the World*, co-written with Eric Rose, which will premiere at ATP's 2010 playRites Festival.

Karen Simonson (Producer)

Karen studied history at the University of Alberta and Archival Studies at the University of Manitoba. She has a lifelong passion for photography, and is happy to be combining her passions for photography and history in one play. Karen is the Reference Archivist at the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

Schedule of Fringe Performances:

Fri Aug 14	1:30
Sat Aug 15	6:15
Sun Aug 16	8:45
Mon Aug 17	10:45
Wed Aug 19	2:00
Fri Aug 21	8:15
Sat Aug 22	1:15
Sun Aug 23	6:00